



50 THINGS YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO KNOW 2

SAMPLER

This PDF file contains a dozen chapters from the book,
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RUSS KICK

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Besides the books opposite, Russ has written articles and a column for the *Village Voice* and several independent magazines. The Memory Hole [www.thememoryhole.org], a website devoted to rescuing knowledge and freeing information, is his labor of love.

Russ made world headlines in April 2004 when his Freedom of Information Act request/appeal resulted in the release of 288 photos of the US war dead coming home in flag-draped coffins. He posted the Pentagon-banned images on The Memory Hole, and overnight the story jumped into heavy rotation on the 24-hour news channels. The photos were carried by almost every newspaper in the world, often on the front page, and Russ was interviewed on *Good Morning America* and *CBS Evening News with Dan Rather*, plus numerous print outlets and NPR. The *Los Angeles Times* declared: "A new media player is born," while *Time*, in an article about blogs (even though The Memory Hole isn't a blog), asked: "How are you going to keep anything secret from a thousand Russ Kicks?"

The previous Halloween, Russ had made the front page of the *New York Times* when he digitally uncensored a heavily redacted Justice Department report.

Books

- *Outposts: A Catalogue of Rare and Disturbing Alternative Information* (author)
- *Psychotropedia: Publications from the Periphery* (author)
- *Hot Off the Net: Erotica and Other Sex Writings From the Internet* (editor)
- *You Are Being Lied To: The Disinformation Guide to Media Distortion, Historical Whitewashes and Cultural Myths* (editor)
- *Everything You Know Is Wrong: The Disinformation Guide to Secrets and Lies* (editor)
- *Abuse Your Illusions: The Disinformation Guide to Media Mirages and Establishment Lies* (editor)
- *50 Things You're Not Supposed to Know* (author)
- *The Disinformation Book of Lists* (author)

INTRODUCTION

What turns a fact into something “you’re not supposed to know”? Basically, it happens when that piece of information is upsetting, embarrassing, discomfoting, or even damaging to a powerful party. The list of such parties is long — leaders of nations, legislatures, militaries, intelligence agencies, justice systems, regulatory agencies, corporations, mainstream media, the medical establishment, the educational system, religious institutions, racial and gender groups, academics and scholars in various disciplines, guardians of public morality, followers of ideologies, hypersensitive leftists, conformist rightists, and others.

Other resistance comes from the fact that every historical figure has developed a cult of worshippers and cheerleaders who utterly refuse — in the face of all evidence — to admit the failings, hypocrisies, and, in some cases, the outright fraudulence of their idol.

In other cases, a fact doesn’t offend an easily pinpointable institution or group. Instead, it’s taboo because it exposes societal lies, the fables we tell ourselves in order to sugarcoat harsh reality.

With this in mind, it's time to present a second cavalcade of troublesome facts, compressed and boiled down to their very essences so that you can quickly digest them in an info-glutted world. For further explorations, references are given in the back. 🐱

Acknowledgments

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01

MEN HAVE CLITORISES

It's long been noted that all of us start in the womb as sexless little blobs. We each had the same undifferentiated external equipment (a bud of tissue), plus two sets of internal ducts.

Depending on whether an embryo has a Y sex chromosome or two X's, during week seven it starts developing into a boy or a girl. That little mound of tissue (the genital tubercle) either opens to form two sets of labia and a clitoris, or it closes to make a penis and testicles. When viewed this way, the similarities between guys' and dolls' private parts is obvious and has drawn comments since ancient Greek times.

But there's a whole lot more overlap than you might suspect. Women aren't the only ones who have a clitoris. Men do, too.

To fully understand this, it helps to know some things about our naughty bits. In women, the clit is a much larger organ than it generally gets credit for being. That little bit of ultrasensitive tissue that is the target of so much attention is merely the tip of the iceberg. The visible part that is touched and tasted is the crown, typically 0.25 to 0.75 of an inch in length. Hidden from view is the other 2.75 to 5 inches of the structure! The entire thing is shaped like a Y, with the visible crown leading to the section called the body, which then splits into two legs that hug the urethra and vagina canal.

This 3- to 5.75-inch structure is made of two sandwiched strips of *corpora cavernosa*, a tissue

that engorges with blood and stiffens when its owner is aroused.

Turning to the penis, we see that its insides are made up of two kinds of tissue. The thin *corpus spongiosum* runs along the underside of the shaft, enveloping the urethra, and accounts for all of the head. This tissue plays a minor role in erections, since a hard-on is due mostly to the two sandwiched strips of *corpora cavernosa*, which comprise the bulk of the shaft. These taper off internally right as they reach the *spongiosum* dickhead.

As in women, a man's *cavernosa* soaks up blood and becomes erect when sexually excited. As in women, the *cavernosa* is shaped like a Y with three parts — crown, body, legs. In the case of men, the body accounts for more of the structure, and the legs are relatively stubby. On average, the male *cavernosa* is typically longer and thicker (which makes sense, since men as a group are bigger than women), and — unlike women — the majority of it is visible.

So here's what we have: the same tissue forming the same structure in the same place. In other words, it's the same thing.

A penis is really a clitoris that's been pulled mostly out of the body and grafted on top of a much smaller piece of *spongiosum* containing the urethra. 🐣

As much as I'd like to be known as the person who first realized that men have clits, the credit goes to psychologist-anatomist-sexologist Josephine Lowndes Sevely for first making this explicit in 1987. Science writer Catherine Blackledge expanded on it in 2004.

03

HARDCORE SEXUAL IMAGERY IS AS OLD AS THE HUMAN RACE

Sometimes it's directly spoken, and sometimes it floats unsaid in the background — the idea that visual hardcore pornography is something unique to our decadent, modern society. Only in the past few decades have graphic representations of sex sprung into existence, according to this naïve belief. These things would send our innocent forebears into cardiac arrest. Whether you dig porn or whether you think it's filth that's rotting our sick society (or both), there's a tendency to view it in an ahistorical vacuum. Visuals depicting full-penetration sex acts, engorged penises, and/or spread-open labia made their appearance in the mists of prehistory and have never gone away.

Cave and rock drawings around the world limn the real or imagined doings of our ancestors. The famous rock art at Fezzan in the Sahara Desert, dated to about 5000 BC, shows manimal hybrids with enormous schlongs, some almost as big as the rest of their bodies. In some scenes, they're penetrating spread women. Caves in Italy, Spain, Russia, India, and Mesopotamia also portray Neandertals boffing. A drawing of doggie-style sex in a French cave has been dated to 40,000 BC.

China has contributed a considerable amount of sex imagery to the world, including coins showing gods and goddesses screwing, minted during the Han Dynasty (206 BC – 220 AD), and the illustrated “pillow books” from the nineteenth century.

The ancient Greeks drenched their vases, plates, goblets, and other objects with a litany of

anal, oral, and vaginal sex — two men doing a woman or a third guy from both ends, young mixed-sex couples, old men and young boys, men with animals, women loving women, satyrs fucking nubile flesh.

When the ruins of Pompeii were excavated, Victorian archaeologists must've gone white when confronted with frescos showing the same things that fascinated the Greeks, only these were rendered in a realistic style using full color. When the relics were put on display in Naples National Museum, not all of them made the cut. The dildos, fornicating frescoes, some statues (like the one of a satyr humping a goat), and other explicit works were kept in a secret room that was sealed off from the public for around 200 years.

The Egyptians were no prudes, either. Pharaohs were sometimes rendered with rock-hard stiffies, and the Ani Papyrus shows us how they got that way: A woman kneels before the pharaoh, giving him a blowjob in a ritual known as the animation of the phallus (in the porn industry, she'd be called a fluffer). Other artwork shows women, bent at the waist, being penetrated by guys with impossibly long, thin dicks.

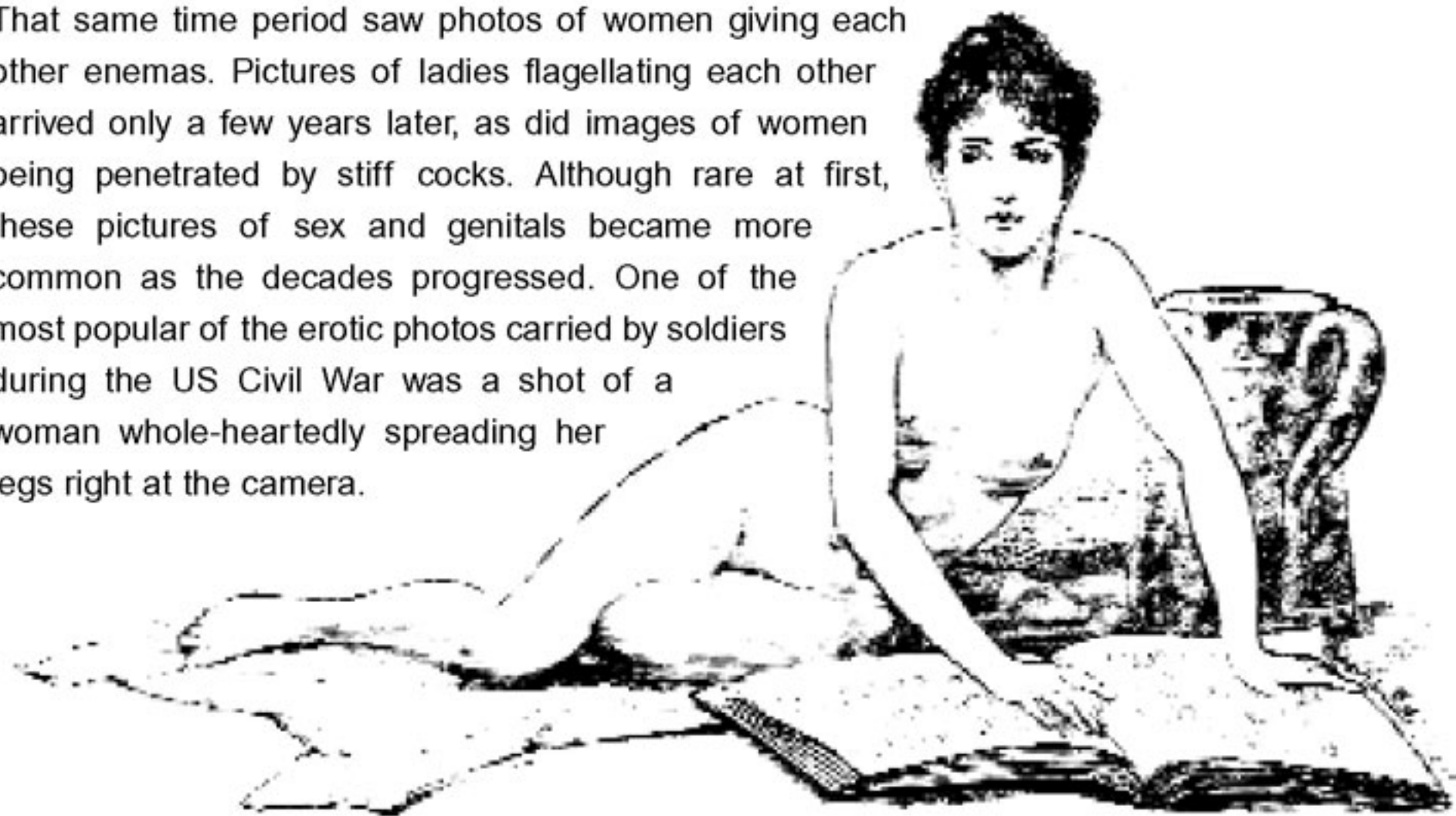
Engravings for bawdy Medieval literary masterpieces such as *The Decameron* and *Gargantua and Pantagruel* could still make people blush. The same can be said of the hardcore etchings and engravings that flourished during the Renaissance and into the 1700s. A series of etchings accompanying a Dutch edition of de Sade's *Juliette* may still be unrivaled for the sheer inventiveness and scope of the clusterfucks they depict.

If you thought that sexual photography started with *Playboy* and cheesecake in the 1950s, you're

off by a full century. Daguerreotypes of naked women started showing up in the late 1840s in France, not long after the process was unveiled in 1839. At first, the images were the exclusive playthings of the rich, but the photographers quickly realized that a huge market existed for their work, triggering a tsunami of mass-produced images starting in the 1850s.

Though many of the women in these shots appear demure and adopt poses from classical art, the nudity is fully frontal. Some of these old photos dispense with coyness altogether — what we would today call a split-beaver shot appeared in 1851.

That same time period saw photos of women giving each other enemas. Pictures of ladies flagellating each other arrived only a few years later, as did images of women being penetrated by stiff cocks. Although rare at first, these pictures of sex and genitals became more common as the decades progressed. One of the most popular of the erotic photos carried by soldiers during the US Civil War was a shot of a woman whole-heartedly spreading her legs right at the camera.



History professor Jonathan Coopersmith writes: “The scale of production of photographs, postcards and slides was enormous: an 1874 police raid on London pornographer Henry Haylor found 130,248 obscene photos and 5,000 obscene slides.”

Photos of nekkid dudes took longer to reach the masses. Shutterbugs were snapping pics of nude men in the 1850s for painters to use as reference, but it wasn't until close to 1900 that these photos “for the use of artists” (nudge, wink) were sold on a much wider basis.

The first porn film was created in 1896, not long after the invention of motion picture technology as we know it. “Stag films” soon became an underground sensation, with informal gatherings of men watching these hardcore sex flicks that had been shot on 8 mm or 16 mm film. The Kinsey Institute's collection holds 1,697 of these nuggets going all the way back to 1913.

Still photography and film continued to be used for the creation of one-handed material during the entire twentieth century, finally going mainstream with *Playboy*, *Penthouse*, *I Am Curious (Yellow)*, *Deep Throat*, the VCR, and the Internet.

A menace to society? Hardcore sex imagery has been around continuously since some troglodyte first scribbled on a cave wall, yet somehow the human race survives. 🍆

08

A DEA JUDGE RULED THAT POT IS MEDICALLY BENEFICIAL

For two years starting in 1986, the Drug Enforcement Administration held historic hearings aimed at the possible rescheduling of marijuana, which was and still is laughably designated as a Schedule I drug, along with heroin, ecstasy, LSD, and mescaline.

According to federal law, a substance is put on Schedule I — the most stringent level of control — if it “has a high potential for abuse,” “has no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States,” and there exists “a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug or other substance under medical supervision.” Since marijuana is a nontoxic, nonaddictive plant with a millennia-long history of health uses, it utterly fails to deserve a spot in Schedule I.

Under the Controlled Substances Act, parties can petition for rescheduling of any substance, and the DEA must formally consider the request. The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Law and thirteen individuals with various medical conditions went through the steps to move weed to the slightly less draconian Schedule II, where it would still be considered a generally evil, destructive substance but could be more widely used for medical purposes. It took three lawsuits and two direct court orders to force the DEA to hold hearings.

During the proceedings, patients and family members testified about pot’s near-miraculous ability to take away the overwhelming nausea caused by chemotherapy, its deflating of the internal eye pressure that causes glaucoma, its merciful relief of chronic pain and itching, and the way it

tames spasticity. The mother of a teenager who died of testicular cancer told how chemo would make him violently vomit and dry heave for days, but if he smoked chronic before and after therapy, he'd eat dinner with the family that very night. She said: "It was clear to us that marijuana was the safest, most benign drug he received during the course of his battle against cancer."

Bunches of doctors — including oncologists, ophthalmologists, psychiatrists, and alternative health guru Andrew Weil, MD — testified on the benefits of *Cannabis sativa*. Cancer doctor Ivan Silverberg, MD, declared under oath: "It [using marijuana] has simply become a standard routine, accepted as part of the practice of Oncology."

Seventy-two articles from medical journals were placed into the record. NORML entered into evidence a list of 33 states that passed statutes recognizing pot's medicinal value.

On the side of the DEA and other Drug Warriors, a number of heartless doctors repeated the prohibitionist mantras that pot is no more effective than synthetic THC (to which patients who've tried both unanimously say bullshit) and that there's not enough scientific evidence to support pot's efficacy (never mind the fact that its illegality makes it almost impossible to scientifically study).

In the end, the DEA's administrative judge ruled in favor of sanity and compassion: He decreed that marijuana should be moved to Schedule II, where it can be widely used under a doc's care. In his ruling, Judge Francis L. Young wrote:

Marijuana, in its natural form, is one of the safest therapeutically active substances known to man. By any measure of rational analysis marijuana can be

safely used within a supervised routine of medical care. ...

The evidence in this record clearly shows that marijuana has been accepted as capable of relieving the distress of great numbers of very ill people, and doing so with safety under medical supervision. It would be unreasoning, arbitrary and capricious for [the] DEA to continue to stand between those sufferers and the benefit of this substance in light of the evidence on record.

Such enlightened thinking could not be allowed to stand, of course. The head of the DEA simply rejected his own judge's ruling, and there the matter ended. 🐉

19

GANDHI REFUSED TO LET HIS DYING WIFE TAKE PENICILLIN YET TOOK QUININE TO SAVE HIMSELF

Gandhi is often ranked, directly or subtly, alongside Jesus Christ and Martin Luther King, Jr. as one of the greatest peacemakers — indeed, one of the greatest human beings — of all time. The mythology that surrounds him — which he built, leaving his followers, admirers, and hagiographers to reinforce and embellish — has almost completely smothered the many unflattering facts about him.



In such a compact book, space doesn't permit a full exploration of Gandhi's numerous, consequential skeletons — his racism toward blacks and whites, his betrayal of the Untouchables, his acquiescence toward the Nazis. Instead, let's focus on something more personal and, in some ways, more upsetting.

In August 1942, Gandhi and his wife, Kasturba, among others, were imprisoned by the British in Aga Khan Palace near Poona. Kasturba had poor circulation, and she'd weathered several heart attacks. While detained in the palace, she developed bronchial pneumonia. One of her four sons, Devadas, wanted her to take penicillin. Gandhi refused. He was okay with her receiving traditional remedies, such as water from the Ganges, but he refused her any medicines, including this newfangled antibiotic, saying that the Almighty would have to heal her.

The Life and Death of Mahatma Gandhi quotes him on February 19, 1944: "If God wills it, He will pull her through." *Gandhi: A Life* adds this wisdom from the Mahatma: "You cannot cure your mother now, no matter what wonder drugs you may muster. She is in God's hands now." Three days later, Devadas was still pushing for the penicillin, but Gandhi shot back: "Why don't you trust God?" Kasturba died that day.

The next night, Gandhi cried out: "But how God tested *my* faith!" He told one of Kasturba's doctors that the antibiotic wouldn't have saved her and that allowing her to have it "would have meant the bankruptcy of *my* faith." (Emphasis mine.)

But Gandhi's faith wasn't much of an obstacle a short time later when it was his ass on the line. A mere six weeks after Kasturba died, Gandhi was flattened by malaria. He stuck to an all-liquid

diet as his doctors tried to convince him to take quinine. But Gandhi completely refused and died of the disease, right? No, actually, after three weeks of deterioration, he took the diabolical drug and quickly recovered. That stuff about trusting God's will and testing faith only applied when his wife's life hung in the balance. When he needed a drug to stave off the Grim Reaper, down the hatch it went. 🍀

25

THE MILITARY USED TO PUT SLANDEROUS SECRET CODES ON DISCHARGE PAPERS

When you're discharged from the US military, your personnel file contains a form DD-214, "Report of Separation." It summarizes your service and shows what type of discharge you received. For decades, it secretly revealed much more than that.

Starting in 1947, the US military put a Separation Program Number (SPN) — typically three or four digits, letters, or a combination — on this final piece of paperwork. Unbeknownst to the veterans, this cryptic code revealed *exactly* why they had left the armed forces.

Some of the 500+ codes, especially those developed at the outset, aren't damaging or problematic. They simply indicate run-of-the-mill reasons for leaving the service. For example, "201" means that an enlisted person's term of service ended; "RE-3S" shows that the vet was a family's only surviving son; and "627" indicates that the vet hit the upper age limit and was let go. Most codes, though, are very invasive of privacy. Here are the meanings of some SPN codes:

- admission of homosexuality or bisexuality • alcoholism • anti-social • AWOL, desertion
- bedwetter • criminalism • discreditable incidents - civilian or military • drug use
- failure of selection for promotion • financial irresponsibility • indebtedness
- interest of national security • obesity • pregnancy • resignation of enlisted personnel on unspecified enlistment in lieu of separation for disloyalty or subversion • schizoid personality
- security reason • separation for concealment of serious arrest record
- sexual deviate • sexual perversion • shirking • unfitness: homosexual acts
- unsanitary habits • withdrawal of ecclesiastical endorsement

Who decided what code to assign, which scarlet letter would follow a vet for the rest of his or her life? In most cases, it was the service member's commanding officer, who had a free hand in the matter. The SPNs weren't given only to people who got dishonorable or other-than-honorable discharges — they were affixed to everyone's record, even those who received honorable or general discharges.

When the existence and purpose of SPNs were officially admitted in 1973, it was further revealed that many employers were well aware of what each code meant. Job applicants who were vets had to make their DD-214's available to potential employers, who would then ask the Pentagon or look up the codes in lists that had been published in obscure, unclassified military documents.

SPNs were vanquished in 1974, due to pressure from Democratic Congressmen. However, vets discharged during the SPN period will still have this marker on their DD-214 unless they specifically request that the military reissue their separation report without the ratfink code. 🚫

30

CONDOLEEZZA RICE COMMITTED PERJURY BEFORE THE 9/11 COMMISSION

During her April 8, 2004, appearance before the 9/11 Commission, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice discussed the infamous Presidential Daily Brief of August 6, 2001. At the time, the document was still classified. We did, however, know the title: "Bin Ladin Determined to Strike In US."

Rice was asked by commission member Richard Ben-Veniste: "Isn't it a fact, Dr. Rice, that the August 6 PDB warned against possible attacks in this country?"

Keeping in mind that Rice was under oath, read her reply:

"You said, did it not warn of attacks. It did not warn of attacks inside the United States. It was historical information based on old reporting. There was no new

threat information. And it did not, in fact, warn of any coming attacks inside the United States.”

In the continuing testy exchange, she reiterated: “Commissioner, this was not a warning. This was a historic memo...”

Then she gets specific about how nonspecific the memo was: “But I can also tell you that there was nothing in this memo that suggested that an attack was coming on New York or Washington, D.C.”

So here we have the President’s top adviser on security swearing before God and country that the memo “Bin Ladin Determined to Strike In US” did not discuss Bin Laden’s plans to strike in the US.

It seemed absolutely ridiculous, but we had to take her word for it. Not for long, though. Two days later — under intense pressure — the White House miraculously released the document, 99 percent uncensored. Some of the short memo did discuss the past (this was the “historical information” part) but only as a way of emphasizing Bin Laden’s continuing willingness to attack America. The briefing says that this illustrates his patience, his tactic of planning strikes for years. His earlier plots were just the first part of his plans to attack inside the US itself, the memo warns. In bold italics, it blares: “Al-Qa’ida members — including some who are US citizens — have resided in or traveled to the US for years, and the group apparently maintains a support structure that could aid attacks.”

This all builds up to the crescendo of the last two paragraphs, which explicitly warn that plots are underway:

... FBI information since that time indicates patterns of suspicious activity in this country consistent with preparations for hijacking or other types of attacks, including recent surveillance of federal buildings in New York.

The FBI is conducting approximately 70 full field investigations throughout the US that it considers Bin Ladin-related. CIA and the FBI are investigating a call to our Embassy in the UAE [United Arab Emirates] in May saying that a group of Bin Ladin supporters was in the US planning attacks with explosives.

This is the “historical” memo that contained “no new threat information.” The briefing that “did not warn of attacks inside the United States,” certainly not anything about an attack on New York.

When mere mortals lie under oath, it’s called perjury. When National Security Advisers lie under oath to Congressionally-mandated commissions, it’s called...nothing, really. Because no one mentions it.

It’s worth noting that Bush also lied about the warning memo, claiming that the “PDB said nothing about an attack on America.” 🇺🇸

31

AL QAEDA ATTACKS HAVE INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY SINCE 9/11

Despite the very costly “War on Terror” — which, we are repeatedly assured, is making the world safer than ever before — attacks by al Qaeda have skyrocketed. This supposedly “decimated” network of terrorists has been busier, and more deadly, than ever *after* the attacks of September 11, 2001.

The famously neutral, thorough Congressional Research Service — whose reports are almost never made available to the general public — looked at the number of al Qaeda attacks perpetrated in the two and a half years after 9/11, balanced against the number of attacks during that amount of time before 9/11.

While some experts believe that there’s no such thing as “al Qaeda,” that the term was created by the CIA to refer to groups, cells, and individuals that have little, if anything, to do with each other, the CRS looked at incidents that the government credits to al Qaeda. Thus, under the establishment’s own rules of the game, al Qaeda’s attacks went from *one* in the 30 months before 9/11, to *ten* during the 30 months after 9/11.



The discrepancy is even worse when you look at the number of fatalities. Before 9/11: 17 deaths. After 9/11: 510 deaths.

When comparing injuries, the difference becomes 64-fold. In the 30 months before 9/11, al Qaeda injured 39 people. In the 30 months after, it injured 2,526.

The differences can be considered even more lopsided because the one pre-9/11 attack was the bombing of the *USS Cole* in Yemen. The report explains that “some experts do not include this attack as a ‘terrorist incident,’ because it was directed against a military, not civilian, target, although the *Cole* was not engaged in combat during that period.” One of the post-9/11 attacks was against military personnel in Kuwait. So if we take out the two military attacks, the scorecard is zero to nine.

Even if we lengthen the time period to look at *all* al Qaeda attacks prior to 9/11, the news is still bad. Al Qaeda’s first attack took place in December 1992. During the almost nine years until 9/11, there were four attacks, two of which were against military targets: the *Cole* and US servicemen in Somalia.

So, the final tally:

Two attacks against civilian targets and two against military targets in the nine years prior to 9/11.

Nine attacks against civilian targets and one against a military target in the two and a half years after 9/11. 🐱

36

THE GOVERNMENT HAS A DATABASE OF EVERY CHILD PORN IMAGE EVER MADE

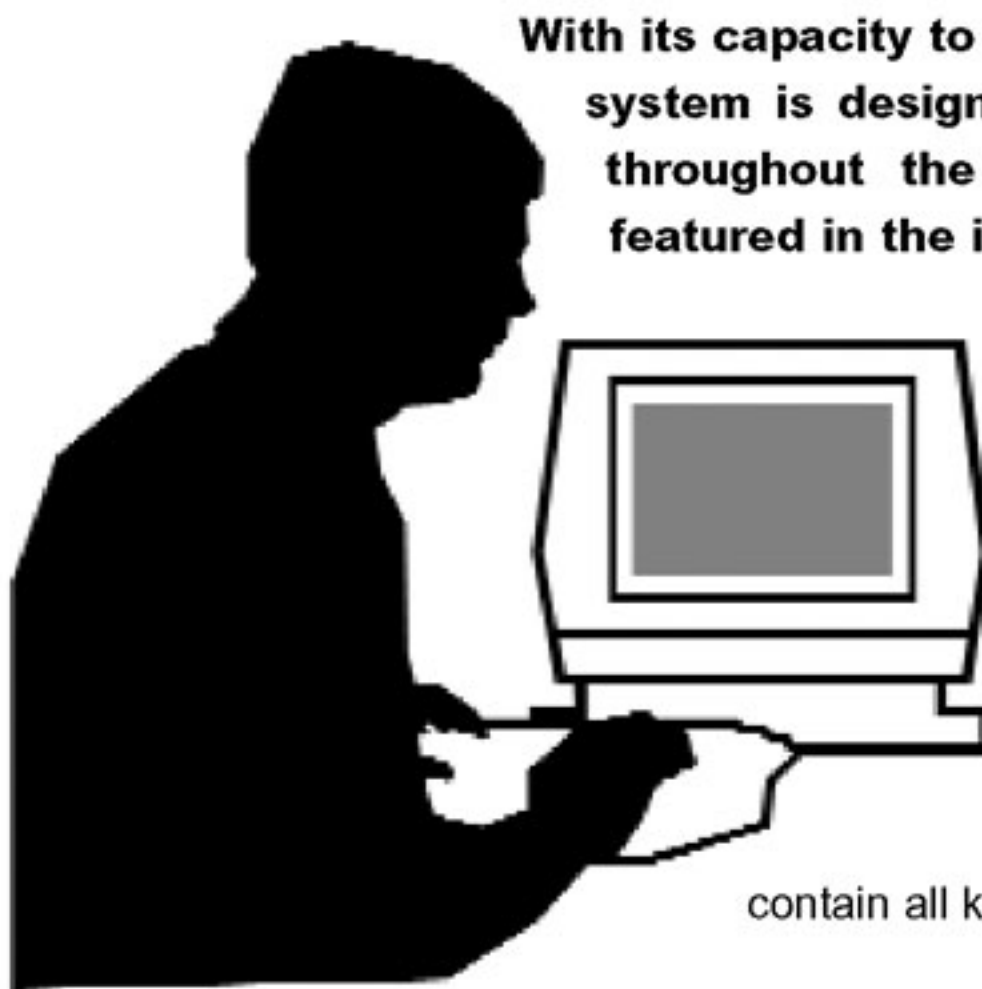
The federal government has created a database that will eventually contain every child pornography image ever created, from those in old Danish magazines to digital photos put online to private pictures seized from busted perverts.

I'm reminded of the (probably) apocryphal tales of the Vatican's secret porn collection, said to be the largest in the world. In this case, though, it's true. The feds are building an all-inclusive archive of kiddie porn, and it's remotely accessible (i.e., people physically located away from the computers housing the database can still log into it).

They've been keeping quiet about such an important plan. The only mentions of the database come in a single paragraph in a press release from the Department of Homeland Security and

two paragraphs in a Government Accountability Office report.

The Homeland Security release concerns Operation Predator, a scheme to crack down on child molesters. One part of the plan involves the database, which has been jointly created by the Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (which houses the database), the FBI, the Secret Service, the Justice Department's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, the Postal Inspection Service, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, with help from law enforcement agencies of other countries. The reasons are explained:



With its capacity to search and identify known images, the system is designed to help law enforcement agencies throughout the world identify and rescue children featured in the images. The system is also designed to facilitate prosecution of those who possess or distribute digital child pornography images in the wake of a 2002 Supreme Court decision (Ashcroft v. Free Speech Coalition) requiring proof that such images depict an actual child.

They say that “this system will eventually contain all known child pornography images.”

The GAO report concerns the use of peer-to-peer networks — best known for allowing users to swap unauthorized MP3s of corporate-controlled music — to share child pornography. Toward the end, the publication mentions the kiddie porn archive, confirming that it went live in January 2003, with the goal of the first phase being 100,000 images. It's "being populated with all known and unique child pornographic images obtained from national and international law enforcement sources and from CyberTipline reports filed with NCMEC."

Although housed at Customs, it "can be accessed remotely" by the agencies involved, including the nongovernmental National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

In some ways, this sounds like a good idea, and the DHS claims that in its first six months, the system identified six kids in roughly 300 images. But putting all of this radioactively illegal, far-flung, extremely hard-to-obtain material into one place protected by just a password raises a whole raft of tough questions. Precisely who at each of these agencies will have access to this cornucopia of kiddie porn? How closely will access be monitored? How tight is the system's security? How often will passwords be changed? What happens if hackers compromise it? What are the implications of allowing a private organization to have access? What kind of oversight will there be? Public oversight has been nil, and by the time Congress was informed by the GAO, the database had already been a *fait accompli* for nine months. Let's hope that NAMBLA (the North American Man/Boy Love Association) doesn't have an accomplished hacker within its ranks. 🐱

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THE WATER SUPPLY IS FILLED WITH SMALL AMOUNTS OF PHARMACEUTICALS AND OTHER CHEMICALS

Every time you wash your tub with a cleaner, rinse off make-up or suntan lotion, pour coffee down the drain, or flush old prescription drugs, small amounts of their chemical components end up in the water supply. Maybe the most surprising source of pollutants is our own waste. Whenever you go to the bathroom, you're excreting small bits of everything you take — all the prescription and illegal drugs, the caffeine and nicotine, the aspirin and cough medicine. With most of these substances, small portions make it out of your body unaltered or just slightly changed. Don't expect treatment to catch these nasties. The Environmental Protection Agency baldly declares: "No municipal sewage treatment plants are engineered for PPCP removal." ("PPCP" stands for "pharmaceuticals and personal care products.")

The EPA first discovered a pharmaceutical chemical in water in 1976, but the emphasis at the time was on industrial pollutants, so no one paid much attention to it. In the 1980s, Europe started studying this kind of contamination in earnest. The US got in on the act in the mid-1990s, but PPCP pollution is still under the radar. In fact, of the major environmentalism websites I checked, none of them discussed pharmaceuticals and other personal care products in our drinking water.

In 1999 and 2000, the US Geological Survey checked *agua* samples in 30 states, finding 82 types of this class of pollutant (they looked for 95). The median amount was seven, with one

stream containing 38. Among the most common were cholesterol, steroids, caffeine, a fire retardant, a disinfectant, and an insect repellent. A 1998 survey of 40 German waterways found 31 drugs and five metabolites. These and other studies in the US, Canada, and Europe have found antibiotics, hormones (mainly from birth control pills), antidepressants, codeine, high blood pressure meds, antacids, ibuprofen, musks, Darvon (a synthetic opioid), nicotine metabolites, blood lipid regulators, and the radioactive stuff you drink before getting X-rayed. No one has yet tested for illegal drugs, but given their rate of use, they and their metabolites have to be part of the mix.

So there's no doubt that our water supply is swimming with microscopic portions of chemicals from dandruff shampoo, Viagra, and pot. The question is what kind of effect this is having on us and on aquatic life. Scientists involved with the issue frankly admit that we just don't know. When it comes to humans, researchers have yet to study in-depth the effects of these micro-doses. As far as fish and other aquatic beasts are concerned, until recently no one thought to study the effects. Who would've thought, as a 2003 study found, that fish in Texas would have Prozac in their brains and livers? Beyond that, the studies that are done look at the effect of just one chemical, but in the real world these chemicals are occurring in combinations, resulting in cocktails with perhaps unknowable effects.

A hydrologist with the US Geological Survey, Sheila Murphy, summed up the problem as pointedly as anyone could: "It doesn't just go down the toilet and into Neverland." 🐉

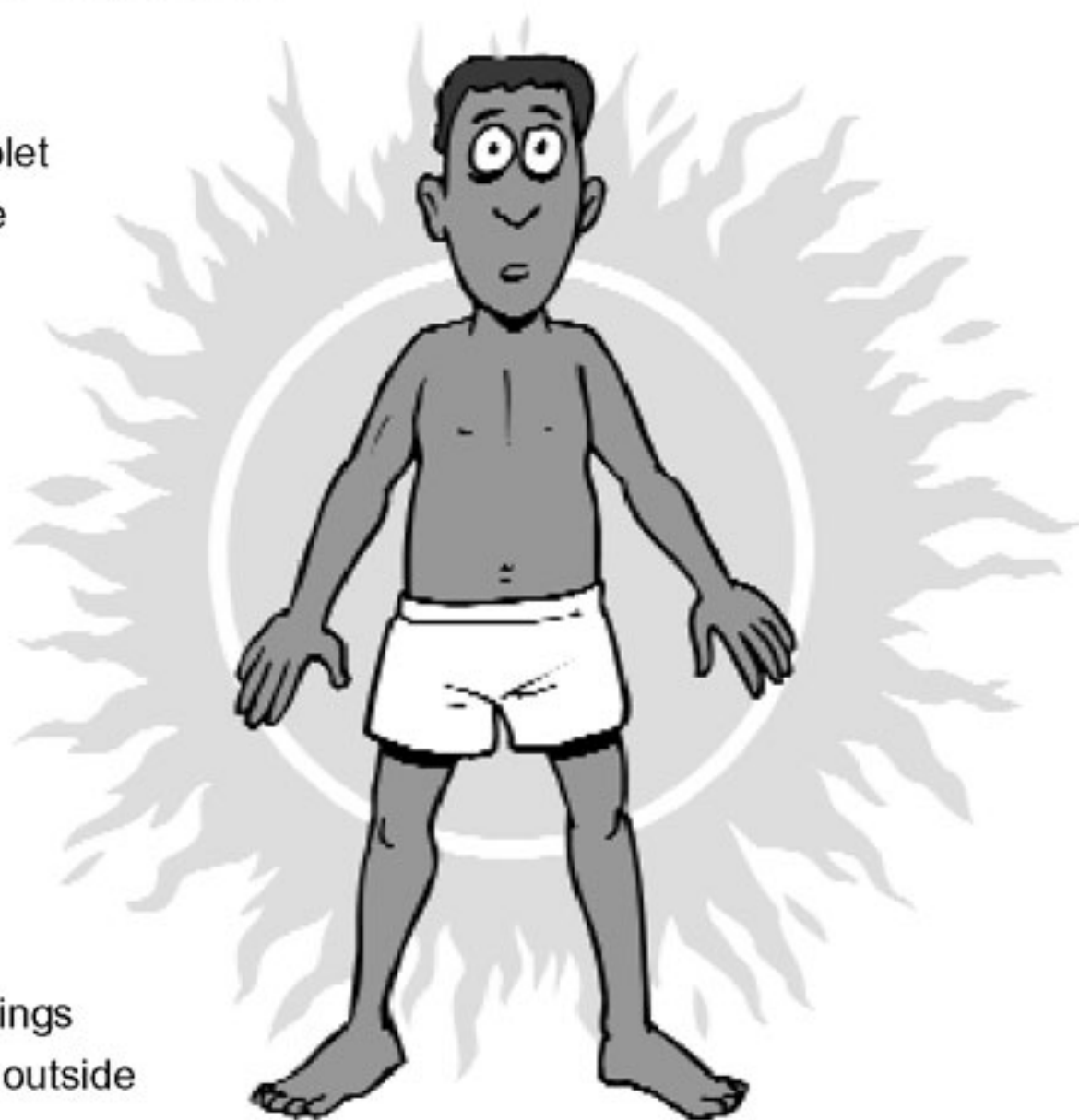
45

USING SUNSCREEN CAN CAUSE CANCER

It's easy to think that slathering on sunscreen will make you practically invulnerable to skin cancer. Those evil rays will just bounce off you *à la* Superman. The manufacturers of these products don't exactly go out of their way to let you know that this isn't the case.

Most sunscreens only block the ultraviolet rays known as UVB, which cause sunburn and, in the long term, some skin cancer. But they do very little, next to nothing, to filter out the longer UVA rays, which also trigger skin cancer (in fact, UVA is probably more likely to do so). In other words, while you are prevented from being fried like a lobster, other rays that cause serious long-term health problems are pounding your skin unabated.

Often, wearing sunscreen only makes things worse, because people tend to stay outside



longer when they think they're protected by coconut-scented body armor. Thus, they drink up more of the killer UVA.

And let's not forget that it's absolutely crucial for us to get Vitamin D, which is formed when our bods are exposed UVB, the very wavelength being stopped in its tracks by sunscreen. Among other things, D protects against some cancers, including breast and colon.

To drive another nail into sunscreen's coffin, be aware that when you use it, you're smearing loads of chemicals, some toxic, onto your skin, which drinks them up like soda and pipes them right into your body.

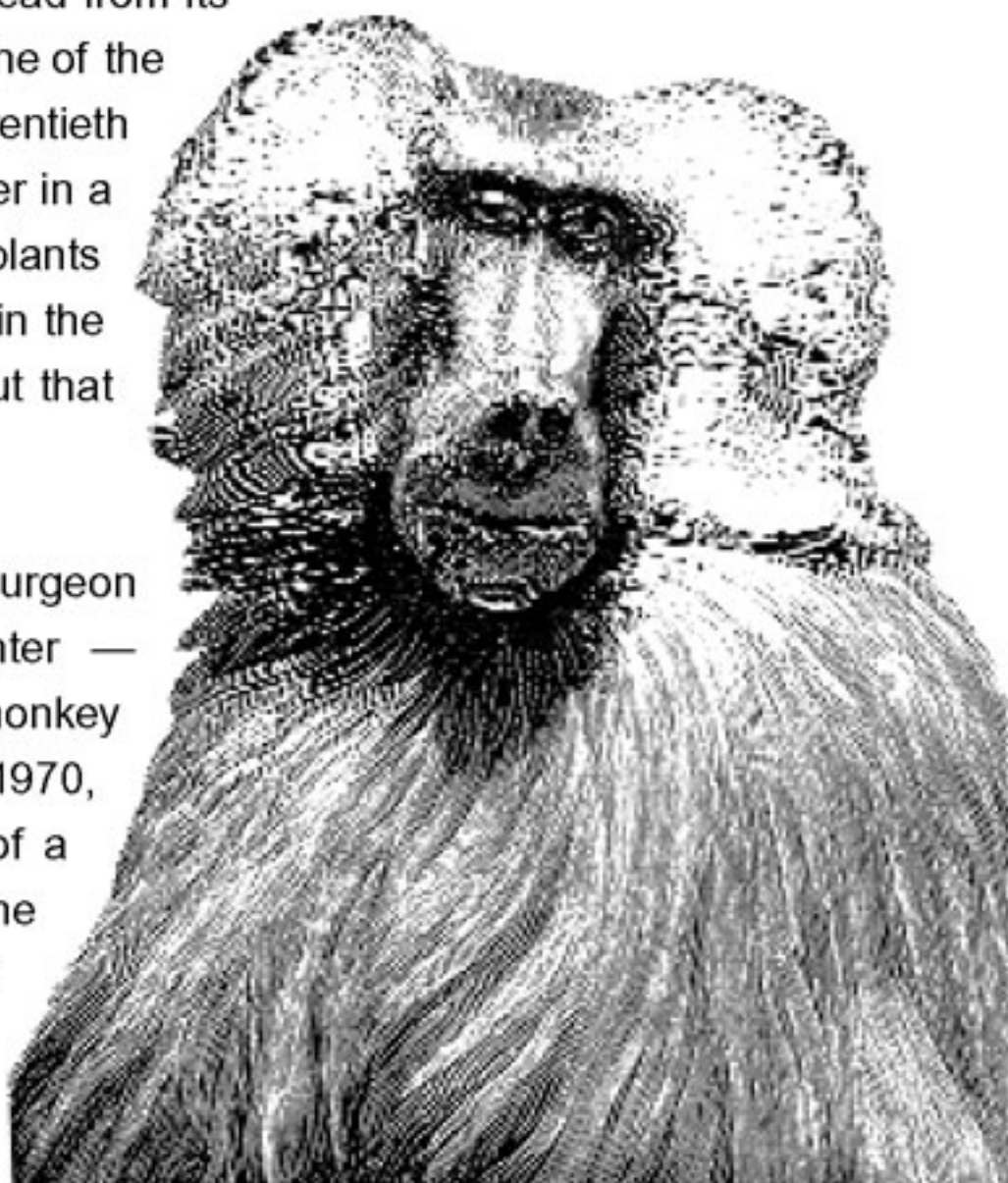
So what's a Sun worshipper to do? Ditch the lotions altogether. Spend small amounts of time in the Sun until your skin acclimates and you're able to stay exposed longer — an hour a day — without turning red. If you have to be outside longer, use clothing and things like beach umbrellas to keep the excess rays off your skin. Dr. Joseph Mercola boils it down: "The key is to never burn." 🐱

47

HEAD TRANSPLANTS ON MONKEYS HAVE ALREADY BEEN PERFORMED

The successful transplant of a primate's head from its own body to that of another must rank as one of the greatest medical achievements of the twentieth century, if not all time. Even if it didn't usher in a brave new world of head/brain/body transplants for humans, it would surely be embedded in the mass mind like Dolly the cloned sheep. But that isn't how it happened.

Dr. Robert White — at the time, a neurosurgeon at Cleveland's Metro Health Care Center — experimented with keeping disembodied monkey and dog brains alive during the 1960s. In 1970, he upped the ante by severing the head of a rhesus monkey, then attaching it to the headless, still-living body of a second monkey. An article from London's *Sunday Telegraph Magazine* sets the scene of the 18-hour surgery:



Chalk marks on the floor fixed the positions of more than thirty highly drilled professionals: two surgical teams, a squad of anaesthesiologists, assorted nurses, phalanxes of technicians, a bevy of scientists equipped to analyse blood and urine samples on the spot.

The poor creature regained consciousness and, according to White's paper in *Surgery*, it and the subsequent Frankenmonkeys were well aware of their surroundings, visually tracking people and objects. Traumatized beyond all comprehension, they were also agitated and violent, chomping a staff member's finger "if orally stimulated." In her death book *Stiff*, Mary Roach writes:

When White placed food in their mouths, they chewed it and attempted to swallow it — a bit of a dirty trick, given that the esophagus hadn't been reconnected and was now a dead end. The monkeys lived anywhere from six hours to three days, most of them dying from rejection issues or from bleeding.

Although this amazing and troubling procedure initially generated headlines, it's been largely forgotten. In the past few years, isolated articles on White's work have popped up in the British mainstream media and the American alternative press (*Wired* and the *Cleveland Scene*, for example). But this seemingly impossible feat failed to become common knowledge.

White caught a lot of heat from bioethicists, fellow doctors, and animal rights activists. This, plus the expense of these operations, meant that he had to give up this field of research. Still, during his occasional interviews, he dreams of pulling the ol' switcheroo on human noggins. Several

countries less prone to hand-wringing have expressed interest, he says, but the funding just isn't there. And who wants to be the first head on the chopping block? The procedure would be of most benefit to paralyzed people whose bodies are in danger of giving out. Because medical science still can't reconnect severed spinal nerves, any recipient would be unable to move below the neck. Once the people in white coats overcome this limitation, White could find himself back in business. And heads will roll. 🐸

Dr. White isn't the only scientist who's been playing musical heads. Optometrist and anatomist Paul Pietsch has fricasseed salamanders — their brains, heads, and eyes — in every conceivable combination. Not as impressive as higher primates, but the results have been at least as good. Pietsch has successfully attached an embryonic head to the eye socket of a young salamander. The second head became sentient, but the host croaked after a few months.

Another poor amphibian, charmingly nicknamed Brainless, had its entire brain (except for the medulla oblongata) carved out of its head. He survived by being force-fed but naturally was never again active.

Then there was Punky, the salamander who was given the brain of a frog. As theorized, the little guy quit snarfing up tiny worms — a salamander delicacy — and instead lived peaceably with them, as frogs do.

50 GOD'S NAME IS "JEALOUS"

There's an old joke that says God's name is Harold, as in: "Our Father, who art in Heaven, Harold be thy name..."

The strange thing is, that's not too much off the mark, only the truth is even weirder. The LORD does indeed have a name, kind of like Andrew or Beth or José.

It's right there in the Bible, at Exodus 34:13. Moses has trudged up Mount Sinai with a second pair of stone tablets, on which God will write the Ten Commandments. Moses and the Big G engage in some repartee, then God says:

"For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God"

This is straight out of the King James Version. God reveals "his" own name: Jealous.

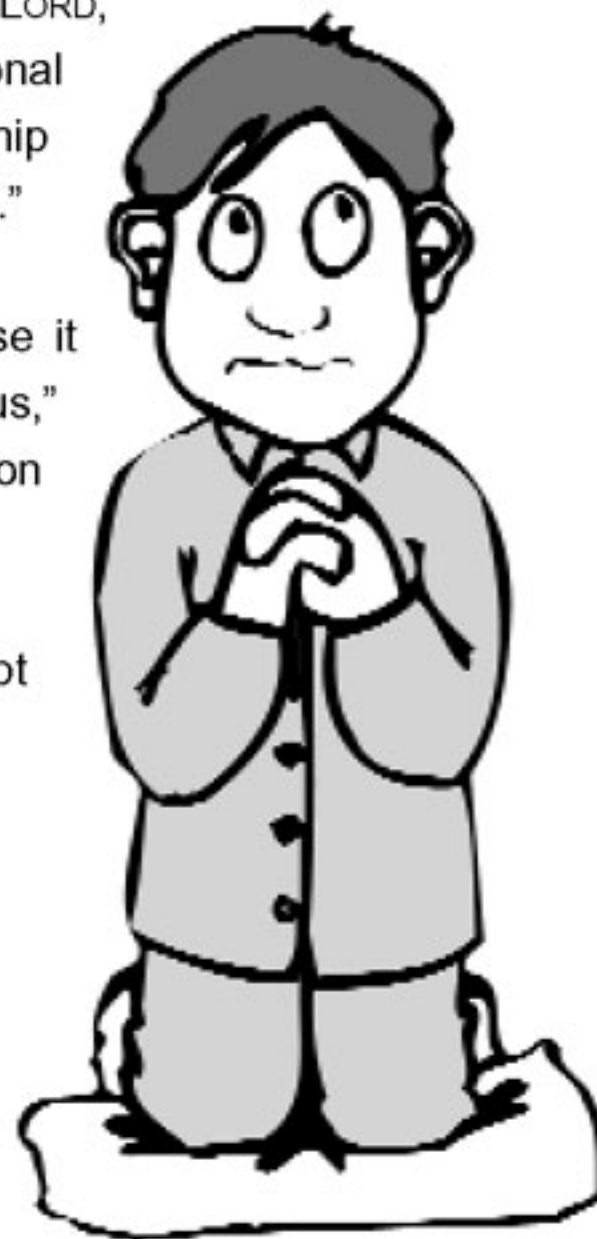
In the original Hebrew, the key words in this verse are *shem* and *qanna'*. According to one of the standard reference works in this area — *A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Hebrew Bible* by James Strongs — *shem* is a noun meaning "name." One of its specific denotations is "the Name (as designation of God)." The word *qanna'* means "jealous" and is applied only to God.

Other English translations say the same basic thing as the King James Version. The New International Version gives it as: "Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God." The English Standard Version phrases it parenthetically: "(for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God)." The New International Readers Version gives God a more relaxed feel: "Do not worship any other god. I am a jealous God. In fact, my name is Jealous."

Why isn't this mentioned in Sunday school? Perhaps because it could lead to children pledging, "One nation, under Jealous," people cursing, "Jealous damn it!" or the government stamping on currency: "In Jealous we trust."

But if you're going to accept the Bible, then you have to accept it when God reveals his own name, no matter how odd or silly.

May Jealous have mercy on my soul. 🙏



This is a much-abridged version of the References section,
covering only the chapters in this sampler.

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